

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00  
INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 EB-08 L-03 /073 W  
-----084018 231048Z /20  
R 230313Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4326  
SECDEF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 4413

E. O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MASS, MY  
SUBJ: NORTHROP CASE

REF: KUALA LUMPUR 4127 AND PREVIOUS

1. IN THE ELEVENTH DAY OF THE CORRUPTION CASE  
AGAINST RETIRED GROUP CAPTAIN AHMAD SHAH BIN HASHIM,  
THE COURT ADMITTED INTO EVIDENCE A SEVENTEEN PAGE  
CAUTIONED STATEMENT MADE BY THE DEFENDANT IN  
APRIL, 1976, DURING QUESTIONING BY THE NATIONAL  
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION. THE STATEMENT ALLEGED  
THAT THE DEFENDANT'S ACITION WITH SUARIKAT  
BUMIPUTRA WAS AT THE REQUEST OF AND ON BEHALF OF  
THEN AIR COMMODORE MOHAMED TAIB, THE CURRENT CHIEF  
OF AIR STAFF. ACCORDING TO THE STATEMENT, THE  
DEFENDANT WAS SUMMONED BY MOHAMED TAIB, WHO SOLICITED  
THE DEFENDANT'S ASSISTANCE IN PRESSING SYARIKAT  
BUMIPUTRA FOR ONE THIRD OF THE SALES COMMISSION.  
THE DEFENDANT CLAIMED THAT HE SUBSEQUENTLY ADVISED  
SYARIKAT BUMIPUTRA THAT IT WAS MOHAMED TAIB WHO  
WANTED THE COMMISSION AND THAT HE PASSED THE MONIES  
EVENTUALLY RECEIVED FROM THAT COMPANY TO THE AIR  
COMMODORE. THE DEFENDANT'S STATEMENT FURTER  
ALLEGED THAT HE ACTED UNDER DURESS AND THAT HE  
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FEARED APPROACHING THE COMPANY BECAUSE "HE KNEW  
THE COMPANY HAS POWERFUL PEOPLE." HE ALLEGEDLY  
THEN INFORMED THE AIR COMMODORE THAT COMPANY  
DIRECOTRS INCLUDED RAJA ZULKIFLI (THE EX-SPEAKER  
OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY) AND TAN SRI KADIR  
SHANSUDDIN (CURRENTLY HTE HEAD OF THE NATIONAL  
OIL COMPANY PETRONAS, AND A NEPHEW OF THE PRESI-

DENT OF SYARIKAT BUMIPUTRA, HAJI IBRAHIM BIN SHEIK YAHYA). COUNSEL FOR THE DEFENSE SUBSEQUENTLY STRESSED THIS STATEMENT IN SUMMATION OF THE CASE, MAINTAINING THAT THE PROSECUTION HAD FAILED TO PROVE THAT THE DEFENDANT HAD IN FACT RECOMMENDED THE PURCHASE OF NORTHROP AIRCRAFT AND HAD IN FACT RECOMMENDED THE PURCHASE OF NORTHROP AIRCRAFT AND HAD NOT RECEIVED THE ILLEGAL PAYMENTS HIMSELF.

2. COMMENT: WE ARE LED TO BELIEVE BY THE LOCAL NORTHROP CORPORATION REPRESENTATIVE ROBERT A. UHRIG THAT THERE IS CONSIDERABLE BAD BLOOD BETWEEN THE DEFENDANT AND THE CURRENT CHIEF OF AIR STAFF. BE THAT THE CASE OR NOT, HOWEVER, THE IMPLIED INVOLVEMENT OF A NUMBER OF HIGHLY PLACED OFFICIALS APPEARS TO BE AN ATTEMPT TO SHIFT RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ACTS TO OTHERS WHOSE POSITIONS WOULD SCREEN THEM FROM FURTHER PROSECUTION. THE EMBASSY IS NOT, OF COURSE, IN A POSITION TO JUDGE WHETHER THOSE NAMED ACTUALLY BEAN RESPONSIBILITY. IN CONVERSATION WITH THE EMBASSY AIRATT, THE CHIEF OF AIR STAFF DISCLAIMED ANY INVOLVEMENT IN THE AFFAIR, BUT ADDED THAT COUNTERCHARGES ON HIS PART WOULD ONLY SERVE TO FURTHER DAMAGE THE RMAF. THE CHIEF OF AIR STAFF FURTHER NOTED THAT THE RMAF WISHES TO PURCHASE ADDITIONAL F-5F NORTHROP AIR-  
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CRAFT, BUT FOR OBVIOUS POLITICAL REASONS WAS PRECLUDED FROM DOING SO UNTIL THE CURRENT AFFAIR WAS SETTLED.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CORRUPTION, BRIBERY, MILITARY AIRCRAFT, INVESTIGATIONS, MILITARY SALES, COURT PROCEEDINGS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
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**Draft Date:** 23 may 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
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Sheryl P. Walter  
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